



**Richard Conlin, President
Seattle City Council**

Actions taken to implement the Local Food Action Initiative in 2008 included:

- Adding \$200,000 in the 2009 budget and \$200,000 in the 2010 budget for bulk buying of food for food banks;
- Adding \$200,000 in 2009 and \$200,000 in 2010 for home food delivery services for the disabled and elderly;
- Including \$2 million for developing new community gardens/p-patches in the Parks for All Levy, which was approved by the voters in November;
- Appropriating \$50,000 to the Department of Neighborhoods to develop a Seattle Food Action Plan, and \$25,000 to the Department of Planning and Development to review land use code provisions to identify code provisions that support or conflict with the goal of potential future development of urban agriculture and market gardening, and to develop new standards or incentive programs that encourage incorporating food gardens into multi-family developments;
- Committing to a weekly Farmer's Market at City Hall;
- Directing the Seattle Department of Transportation to clarify the rules, educate the public, and promote the use of parking strips for growing food;
- Directing the Department of Neighborhoods to identify the most suitable City-owned properties for conversion to use for food production, asking for no less than two acres that could be developed in 2009-2010;
- Requesting that the Department of Parks and Recreation find ways to increase the availability of healthy foods in DPR vending machines, facilities, and programs;
- Directing the Department of Human Services to develop a set of statistics on hunger in Seattle to help guide future investments and policies;
- Modifying the Seattle Green Factor (standards for inclusion of green spaces in developments) to provide extra credit for providing fruit trees or food cultivation, including on green roofs.

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600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 2, PO Box 34025, Seattle, Washington 98124-4025

Office: (206) 684-8805 Fax: (206) 684-8587 TTY: (206) 233-0025

email: richard.conlin@seattle.gov

Actions taken to implement the Local Food Action Initiative in 2009 included:

- Working with community partners to secure a \$300,000 Community Food Grant from the US Department of Agriculture that will support actions to provide local, healthy foods in low income neighborhoods of SE and West Seattle through a series of programs, including a Healthy Corner Store initiative in Delridge, developing a new food bank garden at Seattle Housing Authority's Rainier Vista housing development, and supporting the Clean Greens Farm and Farmers Market in the Central Area.
- Coordinating with the Office of Economic Development to streamline permit requirements and cut permit costs by up to 90% for neighborhood Farmers Markets.
- Persuading the Seattle Department of Transportation to streamline permitting and eliminate fees for growing produce in planting strips.
- Collaborating with the Department of Parks and Recreation to increase healthy food choices in vending machines in City facilities, and in food provided at programs such as after school programs and City-sponsored events.
- Working with the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) to evaluate the P-Patch program -- groundwork for the P-Patch Strategic Plan to be developed in 2010, and part of the ongoing implementation of the program to add 1000 or more community garden plots to fully meet demand and eliminate the waiting list.
- Reviewing with the Department of Planning and Development land use code provisions that could be changed to assist urban agriculture, with legislation expected in early 2010.
- Joining with United Way to develop a strategy to address hunger in Seattle and King County, including increasing the use of Basic Food assistance.
- Identifying surplus City land that could be used for urban agriculture.
- Working with the Puget Sound Regional Council to establish a Food Policy Council.
- Moving forward the development of a Seattle Food System Policy Plan in cooperation with the Department of Neighborhoods.
- Working with Seattle Central Community College to develop a new certificate program in Sustainable Urban Agriculture.
- Joining the Pike Place Market to establish a weekly farmer's market on City Hall Plaza.

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Actions planned to implement the Local Food Action Initiative in 2010 include:

- Declare 2010 as the Year of Urban Agriculture and organize a series of events and public engagement programs to provide resources and encourage people to grow food and increase the number of gardens in Seattle.
- Launch a web portal to provide information and coordinate activities.
- Continue the work on the \$300,000 Community Food Grant from the US Department of Agriculture in support of actions to provide local, healthy foods in low income neighborhoods of SE and West Seattle through a series of programs, including a Healthy Corner Store initiative in Delridge, developing a new food bank garden at Seattle Housing Authority's Rainier Vista housing development, and supporting the Clean Greens Farm and Farmers Market in the Central Area.
- Approve and implement a Food System Policy Plan for the City of Seattle.
- Update the work on hunger programs with United Way and expand the Giving Garden program.
- Launch teaching gardens and more community kitchen projects at Community Centers and work with the Parks Department to consider a community greenhouse project in Rainier Beach.
- Use Parks Levy and other funding to continue to expand the P-Patch program to serve additional households, and adopt a P-Patch Strategic Plan for the next five years.
- Implement a Transfer of Development Rights program in cooperation with King County to protect farms that provide produce for Seattle's Farmers Markets, and work with King County on other steps to protect and encourage active agricultural uses for King County farmland.
- Establish and secure funding for the Regional Food Policy Council authorized by the Puget Sound Regional Council, and assist in developing a state Food Policy Council.
- Work with the Health Department on their "Communities Putting Prevention to Work" grant to support community kitchens and market gardens and take steps to provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables in 'food deserts'.
- Work with the Health Department to extend and expand nutritional labels in restaurants.
- Support pilot programs for collecting food waste in multi-family buildings.

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- Organize a Community Good Food Summit and work with the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture to organize an Urban Agriculture conference.
- Explore a payroll deduction program for City employees to participate in Community Supported Agriculture programs.
- Work with community partners to evaluate creating a Seattle branch of “Growing Power”, a national nonprofit organization and land trust supporting people from diverse backgrounds, and the environments in which they live, by helping to provide equal access to healthy, high-quality, safe and affordable food for people in all communities.
- Assist neighborhoods to include community food planning in the neighborhood planning process by providing encouragement and planning tools.
- Work with community –led projects to coordinate and strengthen their effectiveness.
- Assist in developing educational forums for elected leaders in the region.
- Work with immigrants and refugees and organizations to expand opportunities for market gardening.
- Develop a strategic plan and a series of reports on options for expanding economic activity and jobs in the local food economy, and develop an alliance with Eastern Washington to market Washington grown food in urban areas, including a new Washington-grown organic product brand and sponsoring a trade fair at the Convention Center for Washington agricultural producers.
- Adopt land use code changes that define ‘Community Garden’ and allow them outright in all zones, define ‘Urban Farm’ and allow specific appropriate models in each zone, allow people in residential zones to grow and sell unprocessed produce on their property, implement urban agriculture as an accessory use through the Living Building pilot program, expand the Seattle Green Factor requirements (including a food production bonus) to low-rise zones, review the Land Use Code to ensure the encouragement of small and mid size grocery stores in NC and C zones, and define Farmers’ Markets as an outright permitted use while exploring zoning incentives to encourage permanent Farmers’ Markets.
- Continue to operate the City Hall Farmers’ Market and encourage the expansion and location of other Farmers’ Markets around the City.

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